



13 February 2002

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Emergency water assistance.

1. Purpose. Provide an overview of Corps of Engineers' authority to provide emergency water assistance in the event the water source is contaminated.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts. Public Law 84-99 authorizes the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to temporarily provide emergency water assistance water when a water source has been contaminated and the contamination is causing or likely to cause a substantial threat to the public health and welfare. This assistance is supplemental to local and state efforts, but is 100% federally funded.

a. Assistance. The Corps of Engineers may purchase bulk or bottled potable water, transport the water to community level distribution points, install temporary filtration, provide temporary connection to a new water source, or use military units with water purification/storage/distribution capability. Assistance is generally limited to 30 days or the onset of Stafford Act (FEMA) assistance. Water may not be provided to businesses or the military under this authority.

b. Contamination. Contamination may be the result of a deliberate act, an accident, or through natural circumstances. A deliberate act would include any terrorist act to poison a water supply. An accidental contamination would include such events as a fuel tanker spill or a chemical spill from a ship. Natural contamination could occur from a flood, or from something like a naturally occurring chemical compound that leaches into the water supply.

c. Access to assistance. The governor or his authorized representative must make a written request to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District. The District prepares a Project Information Report (PIR) for decision by the Pacific Ocean Division.

3. Point of contact. The point of contact in this matter is Joel Hendrix, Chief, Emergency Management (808) 438-1275.